

PREFACE

These notes are to serve as a support to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

INTRODUCTION

1. This morning we're in Mark 6 — Perhaps you'll remember w/ me that we're this moment in MK 6
 1. In which Jesus is now including His 12 guys — who up to this point have always been referred to as disciples (learner/apprentice/intern/follower) — actively in ministry w/ him.
 2. V12-13 — powerful stuff is happening w/ them — **(PP) 12** *So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. 13* *And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil.*
 3. Now, last week MK brought us back/flashback to the death of John the Baptist... one of our key take-a-ways to keep focused on **winning at the right things in light of eternity!**
 1. We were encouraged to hold in tension this reality in walking w/ Jesus of cost/suffering + blessing/favor
 2. It's like MK holds in juxtaposition the disciples winning // John losing his life
 3. These are truths that are in constant balance in our own lives...
2. But, today as step back into ch6 there is what seems to be like a bit of a pivot ... what do you mean?
3. We've seen throughout Mark's Gospel:
 1. Much about who Jesus is & provides evidence that validates who He is.
 2. Jesus' insights/teachings about the kingdom of God... that it has come — NOW!
 1. Jesus is not just a teacher w/ interesting/insightful stories ... a pontificator of parables...
 2. He's not just one religious/spiritual voice amongst many in culture (TikTok, YouTube)
 3. *Jesus is **KING**... the **MESSIAH**... the **SON** of **GOD**... Sovereign & All Powerful!*
 4. Jesus is personally performing OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD miracles that evidence that, He has authority/victory over:
 1. Natural **DANGER** (calms storm)
 2. **DEMONS** (demon possessed man)
 3. **DISEASE** (woman w/ 12yr condition)
 4. **DEATH** (brings back 12yr girl)
4. But there's a pivot in our chapter this morning...
 1. Remember w/ me that MK is moving very quickly through the life/events of Jesus
 2. His goal is to select very intentional moments, teachings, episodes from His life to prove who Jesus is
 3. And up to this point, MK's focus has been the 1st 2yrs of Jesus' ministry
 1. Now, in CH 6, we're at the pinnacle of Jesus ministry... remember that from last week
 2. Everyone is talking about Jesus (questioning who He truly is)...
 3. The fame/the crowds/the momentum of who Jesus is... it's peaking...
5. Here's what we see in chapter 6 today, MK focuses on the final yr of Jesus' ministry... 1yr before He goes to the cross
 1. There is a shift in Jesus' focus/methodology... Jesus has been going from city-to-city to preach (Who He Is/ Preaching the Kingdom) — everyone is amazed & wondering...
 2. Now in last yr, Jesus begins to invest Himself more/more into the lives of His disciples.
 3. He's including His 12 in partnership w/ Him & even today we'll see Him accomplishing ministry through them.

6. I think that perspective, in what for many of us is a very familiar story — Jesus feeding the 5,000 — is key for what is being taught in our text today — You see it opens this way in v30...

Mark 6.30-44

30 *The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught.*

1. The disciples — who here for the very 1st time are now identified as the apostles — they come back from being sent out by Jesus to report to Jesus all they had done & taught
2. What does this mean — that they're apostles?
 1. Word itself — simply means... “One who is sent out” — Now, make no mistake
 2. There is what is known in the Bible as the “office of the apostle”
 3. That's these guys... this is unique // this is specifically focused to them
3. But, also... this idea of being sent out ... this is what it means to be a disciple... a follower of Jesus... His ambassador.
 1. **(PP) 2 Corinthians 5.18** *And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*
 2. This is the same kind of idea that Jesus speaks about in **Acts 1.8** — for all believers — **(PP) 8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*
 3. Jesus told His disciples in John 20.21 — *as the Father sent me, so I am sending you —*
 4. Christians are SENT people... we say it this way at Coastline — we LIVE on MISSION in our WORLD w/ the good news of JESUS.
4. And what are these 1st sent ppl of Jesus doing — they're reporting back to Jesus...
 1. This was key for how Jesus focused His time/attention in discipling His 12 guys
 1. Taught them... sent them out... had them come back... report/evaluate
 2. This is a difficult model of discipleship to improve upon.
 2. I think a key lesson for us — is to realize that it is JESUS to whom we ultimately give an account
 3. Can I put it this way? — **ultimately we belong to JESUS...**
 1. **1 Cor 6.19,20** — *You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price.*
 2. **1 Cor 10.31** — *So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*
 3. **Col 3.17** — *And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.*
5. We belong to JESUS... not our jobs//spouse//parents//boss... what's it like belonging to Jesus? one thing it's about

31 *Then Jesus said, “Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. 32 So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone.*

1. Remember, we're at a point in life/ministry of Jesus in which his popularity/crowds are at the peak...
2. MK describes that it is so intense that Jesus & the apostles didn't even have time to eat
3. What does Jesus say — get to work boys — don't be lazy... — that's what it's like belonging to Jesus? No, He says
 1. Let's get away to a quiet place... to rest
 2. Hop in the boat to find a place to be alone...
4. One thing about belonging to JESUS is being w/ Jesus
 1. He doesn't save us solely for our production, but our presence
 2. Out of presence w/ Him comes effective production for Him.
 3. If one of our 1st take-a-ways from this text in regards to what it looks like to be one who is sent by Jesus is to realize that — **We Belong To Jesus**
 4. A 2nd truth is that we need to... we must learn the the necessary rhythm of... **Being w/ Jesus** — to spend time w/ Him. In His Word, In Prayer, In Worship, In Service, In Giving, In Fasting... Resting in Him...
5. **Being w/ Jesus** is challenging to pigeonhole — of course it includes all these things — but also is intentionally being mindful of His presence in every/all situations.
 1. This can not be stressed enough — Being w/ Jesus — recognizing the goodness of God in your life
 2. Being w/ Jesus... recognizing that we Belong to Jesus = Joy is... Joy that overflows...
 3. The balance of it, idea of presence w/ Him & production (fruit) w/ Him... I think Jesus describes it best... **John 15**
 1. **1** *"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, & you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*
 2. **5** *"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.*
 3. **9** *"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*
6. **Belonging & Being** w/ Jesus... 2 lessons I believe Jesus is prioritizing for His men & us... well, look at what happens.

33 *But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. 34 Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. 35 Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. 36 Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."*

1. You see as Jesus is beginning to partner w/ His disciples/apostles & accomplishing ministry through them

2. We see the importance of recognizing that we **BELONG** to **JESUS**, the importance of **BEING** w/ **JESUS**... but, now there's this lesson to **BEGIN** seeing like **JESUS** that is so important.
3. Context is important to remember
 1. Jesus & Disciples = Burn Toast... tired...
 2. Hop into the boat to go across the sea... probably about a 4mile boat ride ...
 3. And the crowds... the crowds (massive crowds) from any towns all around the area hear/see Jesus & the disciples — who have their own groupies now — are hustling/jostling along the shore to meet them
 1. These ppl — They've seen miracles + They've heard teachings
 2. They're hearing about Jesus (J the B resurrected, Elijah) + Disciples = authority over Demons/Disease
 4. It would seem like they're frenzied, star-struck maybe — BeatleMania, Beliebers, Swifites — but also, in need
4. As Jesus steps out of the boat... He has compassion
 1. MK gives a very interesting description of Jesus' compassion that we don't have time to unpack
 2. But this phrase "*like sheep without a shepherd*"
 1. Reminiscent of OT connotations of God's heart for His people
 1. In the wilderness Moses pleaded with the Lord to raise up a leader
 1. Num 27.17 "*Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go and will lead them into battle, so the community of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd.*"
 2. God raised up Joshua — pointed to a greater one coming — Jesus.
 2. In Ezekiel 34 the Lord rails against bad leaders who had neglected & abused the people.
 1. He promises, "*I will appoint over them a single shepherd, My servant David, and he will shepherd them. . . . I, Yahweh, will be their God, and My servant David will be a prince among them*" (Ezek 34:23-24).
 2. Here's the thing JESUS is the ultimate Davidic Shepherd King
 2. Jesus is the **ULTIMATE GOOD SHEPHERD**
 3. In compassion — as a shepherd — He begins to teach them.
5. But, it's getting late... close to 3PM... sun will be going down soon, they're in an area that's remote/desolate & disciples say let's send them away, they gotta eat — language here, not making a suggestion, but almost a command...
 1. The heart of God = compassion, they're like sheep who need caring, leadership, provision...
 2. The heart of man = send them away
 3. **(PP)** David Guzik, "*Both Jesus and the disciples saw exactly the same need among the multitude. The disciple's solution was to get rid of the need by getting rid of the needy. Jesus saw a different solution and wanted the disciples to see it also.*"
6. When we have God's perspective He uses us to change the world around us... I'd say this it's only as we keep at the forefront that ultimately we **BELONG** to **JESUS**, and we prioritize/schedule/become intentional about **BEING** w/ **JESUS** that we can **BEGIN** to see like **JESUS**.
 1. This scene is designed to produce faith in the lives of His disciples
 2. It's a lesson for us in our discipleship/following of Jesus... what does Jesus do next?

37 But Jesus said, “You feed them.”

1. Jesus Involves Them & Presents to Them an Impossible Task w/out Him.
 1. I would say that is a good definition of what it’s like to serve Jesus in ministry
 2. Without Him I can’t... I need Him!
 3. But also this reality... that Jesus wants to involve US in the work He wants to do...
2. What’s the response of these disciples/apostles — sent ones?

37 “With what?” they asked. “We’d have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!” **38** “How much bread do you have?” he asked. “Go and find out.” They came back and reported, “We have five loaves of bread and two fish.” **39** Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

1. Given a command to feed the people, the apostles do a quick cost assessment.
 1. We know from the other 3 Gospels, they calculate that it would take nearly 8 months income to feed this crowd.
 2. They don’t have money, especially that kind of money.
2. Then Jesus then asks them what they do have — to go & find out...
 1. They quickly survey the crowd: 5 loaves & 2 fish.
 2. John 6:9 teaches us these sardines & crackers were given by a young boy.
 3. This is a 1st century’s lunch-able that a mom packed for her boy.
3. The disciples obeyed, & this is all they were able to do.
 1. Their problem was now clearly beyond their resources.
 2. If Jesus does not intervene, then nothing is going to happen.
4. He commands them to get organized, so in obedience they sit down by groups of 50’s & 100’s...
5. Now for those of us who know this story... who grew up hearing about it... we know what’s about to happen...
 1. As such it’s easy to overlook something about this, that I believe Jesus is teaching His disciples/& that we need to embrace as well...
 2. What’s about to happen is miraculous... so miraculous in fact that this miracle (outside of the resurrection of Jesus) is the only miracle that’s recorded for us in all 4 Gospels.
 3. All too often we can perceive the miraculous of God as mystical/fantastical/impractical/untouchable
 1. It’s all God — and it is
 2. But also... look at how practical the disciples are involved here:
 1. They take an assessment
 2. They work w/ what they have
 3. They organize like Jesus tells them to do...
 3. What’s the point?
6. The lessons we see in this chapter for us as disciples/those sent by Jesus are that, ultimately we **BELONG** to **JESUS**, & must prioritize **BEING** w/ **JESUS**, so that we can **BEGIN** to see like **JESUS**... and just like the disciples here — **BEHAVE** in obedience to **JESUS** — they went out & found what they had to wrk w/ + they did things decently/orderly — just like Jesus told them to.

7. May I say this in all respect? ... Often I think we can say... God do something! Don't you see my situation, don't you see my need... and in many ways, I wonder if God is not saying to us — I am working — I need you to work with me... What do you mean?
8. **(PP)** *God's way of provision always begins with what we already have. He wants us to use what we already have wisely. Don't foolishly pray for more from God if you don't use what He already has given you in a godly way.*
9. Oh, these may be sub-points to the main point of what we see God doing in this text before us this morning — but don't miss these points:
1. Jesus Involves Them & Presents to Them an Impossible Task w/out Him.
 2. What's their role/their part/their responsibility?
 1. To Realize that they **BELONG** to **JESUS**
 2. To Prioritize **BEING** w/ **JESUS**
 3. To **BEGIN** to see like **JESUS**
 4. To **BEHAVE** in obedience to **JESUS**
10. Then, what happens? What happens is something that only a MIRACULOUS God can do...
- 41** *Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. 42 They all ate as much as they wanted,*
1. Jesus doesn't begin to chant some sort of incantation
 1. It's not like Ursula (little Mermaid) whipping up a spell
 2. It's not Merlin w/ a goofy hat...
 3. Jesus faces Heaven — this is a little unique from the way a typical rabbi might pray, w/ head bowed — prays...
 1. I believe He's acknowledging His Father
 2. Praying blessing over the bread
 2. Here's what I find interesting, MK tells us that Jesus broke the bread into pieces & kept giving the bread to the disciples
 1. As Jesus broke the loaves, the miracle occurred.
 2. The verbs in this verse are in different tenses in the Greek.
 1. The word breaking is in the aorist, implying an instantaneous act.
 2. The word giving is in the imperfect, implying a continuous act.
 3. Thus the miracle occurred in Jesus' hands.
 4. He broke the bread & then kept on giving it to his disciples to then give to the people.
 3. **(PP)** *Wiersbe The miracle took place in His hands, not in theirs, for whatever we give to Him, He can bless and multiply. We are not manufacturers; we are only distributors.*
 3. He divided the fish for everyone & everyone ate as much as they wanted... v44 tells us **44** *A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.*
 1. In that culture the men would usually eat separate from the women/children
 2. 5,000 men — estimates range from 10k-25k ppl (women/children) in these orderly rows stuffed w/ fish & chips.
 4. The disciples had the opportunity to **BE INVOLVED**, be engaged, participate 1st hand in what only **God** can do!

5. You see at this point in Jesus' ministry He's pouring into His guys/disciples/apostles — accomplishing ministry through them, & He's teaching them important — Ministry/Christianity 101 Lessons — here they are:
1. To Realize that you **BELONG** to **JESUS**
 2. To Prioritize **BEING** w/ **JESUS**
 3. To **BEGIN** to see like **JESUS**
 4. To **BEHAVE** in obedience to **JESUS**
 5. To get to **BE INVOLVED** 1st hand in what only **JESUS** can do!
6. And that dynamic of being involved — warms our hearts — assure our souls — sets accurate perspective of who God is
7. **(PP)** *Guzik The assurance that Jesus can provide – even miraculously – for all of our needs should be precious to us; it was to the earliest Christians. On the walls of the catacombs, and other places of early Christian art, loaves and fishes are common pictures.*
1. Recently, we just finished the book of Esther in our DITW devotionals/reading — hope you're benefiting from
 1. I think the book of Esther should & could be bookmarked for believers as a source of encouragement & a healthy dose of perspective on some simple truths, that seem too easy to simply forget.
 2. And that's the truth that
 1. There is actually is a God...
 2. The truth that He actually does care about us...
 3. And the reality that He is actively engaged in our lives...
 3. If you read the book of Esther to the end... in-the-end — **GOD WINS!**
 2. I think simple truths like these are all too easily/simple forgotten by us grown ups...
 1. **(PP)** have any of you ever read this Bible — StoryBook Bible
 2. **(PP)** *“The Bible is not a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a story. . . . You see, the best thing about this story is—it's true. There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling the one big story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them”* (Storybook Bible, 17).
 1. If you're not getting any of these alliterated points today...
 2. Get this point — God Loves + God Rescues + God Provides.
8. We see the miraculous provision of God through the hands of Jesus & distributed by the hands of His disciples. And how does this selected story/account/miracle end from the end of Mark's pen?
- 43** *and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish.*
1. The whole point of this miracle was not to simply fill the bellies of the hungry — oh we see that, & it reminds us of the goodness & faithfulness of God, for sure!
 2. But to encourage, to train, to disciple His disciples... And how do they end up here?
 1. Walking away about w/ a BASKET full bread & fish.
 2. When God works, He works on both ends... the people you serve are blessed... but the one serving — more so!
 3. You get blessed by serving — even more blessed!
 3. You see, here's what we see Jesus teaching His disciples as they walk away w/ 12 baskets of fish/chips // 1 each
 4. The disciples get to uniquely **BEHOLD & BENEFIT** from the **BLESSINGS** of **JESUS**
 1. This is true of all those who belong to Jesus
 2. Who walk with Jesus as a disciples/sent ones — He takes care of His own!

CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

1. Now remember w/ me — the goal of the Gospel of Mark — to jolt his readers into an understanding of:
 1. Who Jesus is — *Jesus is **KING**... the **MESSIAH**... the **SON of GOD**... Sovereign & All Powerful!*
 2. What Jesus taught — The Kingdom of God... rule/reign — has come — NOW! // Repent + Believe
2. Mark doesn't give us everything about Jesus' life, but what's needed to see/know who Jesus is + validate His message
3. In MK 6 — at the pinnacle of Jesus ministry... the fame/the crowds/the momentum of who Jesus is... it's peaking...
 1. As Jesus is entering His final yr of public ministry & there is a shift in Jesus' focus/methodology...
 2. He's been going from city-to-city to preach (Who He Is/Preaching the Kingdom)
4. Now, He's pouring into His guys/disciples/apostles —
 1. Today this account from MK reminds us that God Loves + God Rescues + God Provides.
 2. I hope that you know that today... and if you need to be reminded — may the Word of God & the ppl of God be a source of proper perspective for you...
5. It's interesting that w/ this miracle — the feeding of the 5,000 — better yet the feeding of anywhere between 15k-25k
 1. It doesn't end like all these other miracles do
 2. A sense of wonder, awe, or fear... but the disciples walking away w/ a basket each.
6. It wasn't about the bellies being full or even so much solely about validating His message (though it did/does)
 1. Only miracle other than the resurrection of Jesus that's in all 4 Gospels
 2. This is a big one!
7. But also, as Jesus is accomplishing ministry with them & through them... focusing on raising them up... just as He is with us... He's teaching them important — Ministry/Christianity 101 Lessons — here they are... here's what we see today:
 1. To Realize that you **BELONG** to **JESUS**
 2. To Prioritize **BEING** w/ **JESUS**
 3. To **BEGIN** to see like **JESUS** — Compassionately for ppl
 4. To **BEHAVE** in obedience to **JESUS** — disciples took what they had/organized
 5. To get to **BE INVOLVED** 1st hand in what only **JESUS** can do!
 6. To uniquely **BEHOLD** & **BENEFIT** from the **BLESSINGS** of **JESUS**